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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

SE/FI/CE *PMA*

NO.

DATE

19 February 1954

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. SE/CFI				<i>E</i>	<p>SE/FI/CE to 3: Attached for your information and retention is a memorandum prepared by a field case officer now in headquarters. It answers the question raised in paragraph 21a to 21i of the Headquarters Review, SGAW-2835, dated 21 October 1953, which is already in your possession. Questions 21j to 21(L) of SGAW-2835 are actually recommendations for field action. Question 21m in answered in the answer to question 21a in part. The answer to the last question cannot be provided by the <input type="checkbox"/> Station or a case officer thereof and is being sought instead from <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.					
3. STC/SPB				<i>SPB</i>	
4.					
5. <i>for 030 P45</i>					
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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2D
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2007

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11 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SE-1

FROM : []

SUBJECT : APPLE Team Review

1. Agent recruitment:

All available information regarding RNCERTAIN, AIRTIGHT, and AIROMETERS' recruitment is contained in paragraph 5 of the security review.

a. RNDOMINO was a member of HBPARTSON and was recruited for operations from there by the military Junta of the NCFA. He received his W/T and operational training at Wagness Estate. Subject was transferred to [] in the summer of 1951 and held there at the Farm training site until used in the APPLE operation.

b. RNPOTLOG was originally picked up by the [] IS in 1949 and used by them in the THUNDERSTORM operations as a team leader. Subject was turned over to OBOPUS in the summer of 1951 for use as the leader of the joint PEAR/THALASTIC operation. On termination of this operation, RNPOTLOG was held on the OBOPUS payroll for use in future operations.

c. AIRWISE was originally picked up by the [] IS in 1949 and used by them in the THUNDERSTORM operation. Subject was recommended for this operation by RNPOTLOG and was interviewed by [] prior to being hired by the Albanian Branch. Subject was allowed to maintain his residence in Menidhi until called up for this operation.

d. GABNEGATE was picked up by the [] IS sometime in 1949 and was used by them in the THUNDERSTORM operations. Subject was first used by the Albanian branch in the PEAR/THALASTIC operation. Upon termination of this operation subject was sent to Siros Island because it was felt that he would be of no further use to the Albanian branch. Subject was later moved from Siros to Lavrion IRO Camp. When plans were being made for this operation subject was recommended by RNPOTLOG and after interviews by the [] staff, subject was recruited. Subject remained in Lavrion Camp until moved to the Ranch training site.

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e. GABOARD was employed by the [] IS in the THUNDERSTORM operations in 1949-50. Subject was recommended for this operation by RNPULOG. Subject was interviewed by the [] operations section and after completing local and headquarters traces subject was hired.

f. GABLUTION was recommended for operations by RNPULOG and had been carried on the [] spotting files for discussion with [] upon his arrival in [] After an agreement had been reached between [] and the operations section, subject was contacted by [] and GADUMMY. GADUMMY was used to make the contact because none of the [] staff knew subject. Subject agreed to take part in the operations and stated that he was ready to leave at any moment. Subject was driven by [] to the Ranch training site on the same day.

g. AIRBLOWN was first contacted by [], while subject was a member of JBPARTSONS. AIRBLOWN was sent to GABBY training site in Germany where he received W/T and operational training. Upon completion of subject's training in Germany he was transferred to [] for the final stages of commo training. While in [] subject was housed in the commo training site at Ekali. Subject was moved to the Ranch training site when training of ORANGE/PLUM teams was to begin.

h. RNDEPART was a member of the [] run THUNDERSTORM operations during 1949-50 seasons. Subject was turned over to OBOPUS for use in the PEAR/THALASTIC operation. Upon termination of this operation subject was carried on the OBOPUS payroll for use in future operations. In early 1953 subject was dropped from the payroll because it was found that he had been living with a woman in Piraeus. Subject realized that his actions were against our instructions and, therefore, he held no grudge against OBOPUS. Subject had let it be known, however, that he would be available for operations when needed. Subject was contacted by [] and [] and was taken by them directly to the Ranch training site without being allowed to return to his room for clothing etc. Subject's personal effects were then picked up by one of the men from the Aliens Bureau. Subject was transported from Athens to the training site in a jeepster.

i. AICHIP and AIROMETER were recruited through RNCASING by [] No other information regarding their recruitment is available except as noted in paragraph 5 of the security review.

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2. In general agents are taken directly to the training area and are held there until training commences. If the training site is in use one of the holding areas may be used until the training area becomes available. A holding area was not necessary in the case of the 4 teams in question. APPLE 1, 2, 3, and PLUM /ORANGE teams were housed in the training site from the time they were recruited until the operations were mounted.

3. Personnel involved in Operations:

a. APPLE 1 team

[]: field chief of project BGFIEND; supervised the whole operation and gave the final pep talk to team prior to infiltration.

[]: chief of BGFIEND field operations; gave instructions on reporting MSG writing; conducted a review of all subjects covered in training; and gave team operational and final briefing.

[]: assistant operations officer; conducted classes in S/W, message writing, assisted in commo briefing, and gave general support of operation.

[]: support officer; handled equipment and conducted team to the border area.

[]: training officer; gave instructions on map, compass, physical training, field problems, survival, and mountain climbing.

[]: radio training instructor; gave all commo instructions and carried out field problems and final commo briefing.

b. APPLE 2 team

[]: project chief; overall supervisor.

[]: supervised the training; handled general and specific briefing.

[]: assisted in the commo training and gave final commo briefing.

[]: gave parachute training and assisted in support of operation.

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[]: commo training officer; gave all commo instructions and assisted in final briefing.

[]: support officer; assisted in equipping APPLE/2 and carried on other general support functions.

[]: support officer; assisted in equipping APPLE/2 and handled support at the training site.

c. APPLE 3 team

[]: project field chief.

[]: field operations officer; gave instructions on intelligence reporting; information gathering; gave final briefing; and reviewed subjects covered in training.

[]: chief of training; supervised all training of agents; gave instructions in parachute training, jump procedure and survival.

[]: assistant operations officer; coordinated various support activities.

[]: training officer; assisted in physical training, hiking, and field problems.

[]: training officer; gave instructions in map reading, compass, first aid, and field hygiene; assisted in physical training.

[]: support officer; assisted in field work and equipment.

[]: support officer; handled all housekeeping duties; purchasing of supplies, and other general support functions.

[]: support officer; assisted in equipping team.

d. PLUM/ORANGE group.

[]: chief external operations.

[]: field chief of project.

[]: chief of field operations; gave instructions in MSG writing; information gathering techniques, reporting, reception committee procedure, and conducted final briefing.

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[]: chief training officer; supervised all training; gave instructions on jump procedure, parachute training, survival, reception committee procedure, and conducted talks on operational security.

[]: training officer; gave instructions on map reading, compass, first aid and field hygiene, and assisted in field problems.

[]: training officer; assisted in field problems, and conducted showing of training films in addition to some support work.

[]: training officer; assisted in field problems and general support work.

[]: commo training officer; gave all commo training and instructions to ORANGE team W/T operator in addition to conducting W/T field exercises. [] was responsible for checking all radio equipment and supervised packing of same for both PLUM and ORANGE teams.

() : commo training officer; gave all commo training and instructions to PLUM team W/T operator; worked in conjunction with AUSBON on field exercises and packing of radio equipment.

() : support officer; took charge of equipping team and assisted in liaison function with Greek IS, plus general support duties.

[]: support officer; general housekeeping duties; purchase of supplies and other support functions.

[]: assistant operations officer; acted as conducting officer for the PLUM/ORANGE team members from Egypt to Greece.

[] : commo operations officer; conducted final commo briefing.

e. In general the various officers who trained or had contact with the agents for any reason carried on their work between the hours of 0800 - 1700 except when training films were shown or night problems were conducted.

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4. Security of training sites:

a. The site used for APPLE 1 team.

(1) The training site was known as the Farm. This particular site is no longer in use. The house in question was approximately 10 miles from Athens, in the lightly populated area of Voula. The training area was approximately 125 yards long and 45 yards wide. The area was completely surrounded by a $4\frac{1}{2}$ foot high wire fence (heavy duty type). The front and sides of the site were well-shielded by closely placed cedar trees about 30 feet in height. The enclosed area contained three houses; (1) the main house where agents were quartered; (2) a second house some 50 yards behind the first which had a garage and kitchen attached and was used by the training officers as living quarters; and (3) a third house situated about 15 yards behind the second. This house consisted of two rooms. It was used by the caretaker and his wife. The house was rented by () () who passed as a Swiss business man who desired to use the location for himself and his friends. As far as the caretaker and his wife were concerned, the guests (agents) were Brazilian friends of ()'s who came to Greece for business and rest. At no time during the period that OBOPUS used the area did the owner visit the area without first calling ()'s friend; () and being accompanied to the area by him, and only during those periods when no agents were being kept in the area. The Farm was given up upon the termination of the lease in December 1952, because it was felt that it had outlived its usefulness. The Farm served as a training site for all OBOPUS teams from November 1950 to December 1952. The Field will be able to furnish all the information in regard to the caretaker and his wife.

b. The site used for APPLE 2, 3, and ORANGE/PLUM teams.

(1) The training site was known as the Ranch. It was located in the same general direction as the Farm but about 3 miles nearer Athens. The area was approximately 75 yards long and 50 yards wide. It was fenced in on all sides with a heavy duty type wire. The front side was shielded by trees and bushes which rose to a height of 15 feet. In the enclosed area were three small houses; (1) a house by the main gate used to quarter the caretaker and also used as a dining room for the agents; (2) a second house about ten yards to the rear of the first house was used for classrooms and for storage of C rations and other supplies; and (3) a main house situated in the middle of the area used by the agents as sleeping quarters. The location of this house is far from the ideal

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because several houses are near by, but it at least satisfied enough of the field's training requirements to justify its use. The Ranch is situated at the end of a seldom-used street which leads to a small range of hills. The area behind the Ranch is used for field problems, forced marches, and as a firing area.

(2) Field takes the following steps to insure the security of the training area:

(a) Prohibits movements of agents outside the grounds unless accompanied by a training officer.

(b) Limits the cars that enter the area.

(c) Limits the number of officers who have contact with the team.

(d) Limits the traffic to and from the training site.

(e) Briefs agents so that they are able to answer any unexpected inquiries intelligently.

(f) Has the case officer make spot checks of the training area in the evening to insure that none of the agents are outside the limits of the area.

5. Transportation phase of mission:

a. APPLE 1 team

(1) This group was picked up by OBOPUS upon arrival at Athens Airport by C-47 aircraft from Munich. The team was taken in covered weapons-carrier from the airfield to the Farm. At no time during the training period was anyone (any team member) allowed to leave the area unaccompanied. During the periods when field problems were conducted the group was moved out of the training area by weapons-carrier to the desired site. The weapons-carrier was either parked in the vicinity or taken back to the Farm by (). Upon completion of the training the team was moved by weapons-carrier from the Farm to the airfield. The group and equipment were loaded on a C-47 aircraft and flown to Kastoria airfield accompanied by () conducting officer. At Kastoria the team was met by one of the () border guard officers and a driver. They were conducted to the Greek IS holding area, which is roughly six miles from the airfield.

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As to the security of this holding area we can say that to our best knowledge no unauthorized persons are permitted to enter it. There is a squad of Greek border troops stationed in the area who have contact with team members from the time a group arrives at the holding area until it is transferred to the border for infiltration. The trip from the Greek IS holding area to the border was made in weapons-carrier. The border officer and several armed soldiers accompanied the team to the border. It is necessary to send this armed squad with the team because much of the route to the Greek border outpost falls within a no-man's area easily penetrated by Albanian patrols. From the border outpost the team went by foot until the crossing was made.

b. APPLE 2 team

(1) THROWOFF/2 was picked up at the Greek Aliens Office and conducted to the Farm by [] in a jeepster. Subject was never allowed to leave the area unless accompanied by a case officer. Subject completed all of his training in the Ranch training area and because the mission was aborted due to weather, it was deemed necessary to place a twenty-four hour guard on him until the operation was mounted. During the waiting period the various case officers took regular shifts guarding subject. When the new infiltration date was set, subject was moved with equipment from the Ranch to the Greek Airforce field at Elevisis. Subject was flown from the field to the operational area by C-47 covert aircraft.

c. APPLE 3 team

(1) GABOARD, GABNEGATE and RNPOTLOG were picked up by [] at a prearranged spot in Athens and driven to the Ranch in a jeepster. While at the Ranch the team was trained by the various officers mentioned in para (3) above. During training problems the group was moved from the Ranch to the hills by jeeps and accompanied at all times by the training officer (s) responsible for the particular phase of training. Upon completion of their training the group was moved from the Ranch to the Elevisis airfield by GMC panel truck. From Elevisis to the operational area the team was flown by C-47 covert aircraft.

d. PLUM/ORANGE groups

(1) The RNCATING men, AICHIP and AIROMETER, were conducted by [] from Egypt to Greece. Upon their arrival

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at Athens airport the men were moved from the airdrome to the Ranch in a GMC panel truck by [] GABLUTION was picked up by [] at the village of Menidhi where GABLUTION resided. [] was accompanied on this trip by GADUMMY, who had been picked up earlier by [] at the commo training safe house at Paradise. The two men were driven to the Ranch by [] in a jeepster. AIRBLOWN was conducted to the Ranch by [] and [] AIRBLOWN was taken from the commo training house in Ekali. The PLUM/ORANGE group was never moved out of the training site except for field problems and then in the company of the training staff. Upon completion of their training the PLUM/ORANGE group was taken to the Elefsis airfield in GMC panel truck and flown to the operational area by C-47 covert aircraft.

e. It should be noted that all movements of agents from the training site to the Elefsis airfield are carried out after dark. In all cases the vehicle carrying agents is followed by a second carrier capable of moving men and equipment from the original truck in the event of a break down. Secondly, the drivers of both trucks are documented with papers from the Greek General Staff stating that the bearer and persons in his company are working for the GGS and that they should be afforded all aid and assistance by all civil, military, and other police authorities.

6. I believe this question is answered in para (4) above.

7. Liaison with Greek Services:

a. In the past the liaison with the Greek IS and the Aliens Office was carried on at the branch level. Each Greek office was dealt with separately and in general neither was informed that the other had been consulted on a particular matter. Following is a break down of of the types of matters discussed with each office.

Greek IS

(1) Movement of agents from Athens to the border area. In regards to this matter we inform Greek IS that on a certain date we will deliver our team to the border. The IS informs their units on the border to be on hand at the prearranged time and date for pickup. The IS is not given the true names of the team members.

(2) The assignment of guides to our teams when they are required.

(3) Movements of exfiltrated teams from the border area to Athens.

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- (4) Arrangements for documentation of staff personnel for admission to Elevis airfield.
- (5) Exchange information gathered on the various operations.
- (6) Coordinated with their office on interrogation of recent border-crossers, in addition to all other such matters of an operational nature.

Aliens Office

- (1) Arranged for the false documentation of agents.
- (2) Removal of agents to and from IRO Camps.
- (3) Removal of agents from mainland in cases where security violations had been committed.
- (4) Placing agents in various towns under surveillance during periods when no holding areas were available.
- (5) Placing agents in an A.D. detention house prior to movement to an island.
- (6) Keeping in contact with refugees at IRO Camps by using the A.D.'s office as a contact point.
- (7) When agents became involved in difficulties with the local population we were required to clear up such situations through this office.
- (8) In general all matters pertaining to agents but not of an operational nature were handled through this office.

b. At the present time all liaison with the Greek services is carried on by the liaison section of the [] . This procedure was adopted in order to cut down the number of staff personnel involved in discussions with the Greek services, to coordinate the efforts of all individuals, and to improve the liaison between the two services. Except for operational matters which will require a certain amount of discussion, all other matters are brought to the attention of the responsible liaison officer for action.

8. As regards to air support work for the ALBANIAN branch a high degree of security was maintained at all times.

a. Officers and crewmen of overt aircraft never had any direct contact with the agents.

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b. Loading of agents and equipment on covert aircraft was conducted with every security precaution considered.

c. True identities of agents or anything regarding their mission was never made known to covert aircraft personnel except on a "need-to-know basis".

With respect to the security of air support operations in general, the field may be able to add to these comments.

9. Compartmentation maintained between PLUM/ORANGE and APPLE.

a. To our knowledge only one man in the PLUM/ORANGE group knew the identities of APPLE team. AIROMETER who was a member of the original APPLE team knew all the men in the group except THROWOFF/2, GABOARD, and GABNEGATE who were not members of the original group. PLUM/ORANGE group was never informed of APPLE team's identities by the operations staff. We must, however, assume that the PLUM/ORANGE leaders supplied by RNCASTING probably were aware of the identities of the original APPLE team and its area of operation.

b. [] who accompanied the team to Athens and acted as RNCASTING's liaison officer, was given information on APPLE team.

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